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Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stepping motor comprising:

a stator assembly;

a rotary shaft including a lead screw portion end and a plain portion end, the plain portion end including the stator assembly and the rotary shaft having both ends thereof rotatably supported by respective bearings, wherein the rotary shaft includes a metal pipe having its inner and outer surfaces continuously covered by a synthetic resin molded so as to form the lead screw portion, wherein the metal pipe is filled with the synthetic resin without reaching a distal end of the metal pipe and forming a recess;

a rotary magnet fixedly mounted on the plain portion end of the rotary shaft, and rotatably housed in the stator assembly;

a bracket attached to the stator assembly and having one bearing at one end thereof; and

a thrust mechanism disposed at ~~one~~ the lead screw portion end of the rotary shaft opposite the stator assembly, the thrust mechanism having a resilient member ~~provided in a recess formed at the one end of the rotary shaft,~~ disposed within the distal end of the metal pipe, and a point-contact member is provided between the resilient member and one bearing of the respective bearings, the one bearing rotatably supporting the rotary shaft positioned toward the lead screw portion end, wherein the thrust force is ~~given~~ provided by the resilient member to the rotary shaft in an axial direction; and,

wherein a diameter of the point-contact member is less than an inner diameter of the metal pipe such that the point-contact member is disposed on the distal end of the metal pipe.

2. (Original) A stepping motor according to claim 1, wherein the resilient member is a coil spring, and the point-contact member is a spherical body made of steel.